

The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

THE REPORTER

MAY 2009

**WEST END YOUTH CENTER
20TH AND GREENLEAF STREETS
MEETING 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 12TH - 7PM

CONTACT US

Website:

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Brenda Nagle Board Member

Guest Speaker For The May Meeting

Our guest speaker for the meeting this month is Maryesther Merlot, District Judge. Join us to hear the inner workings and anecdotes of our Judicial System.

A Word From Our President

Spring has finally arrived, although there were a few days that felt like summer!

It's a good time to do a night time safety check around your house. Do what you normally do before you go to bed, but instead of going to bed, go outside and walk around your house. Are the bushes that look so nice during the day creating a nice place for someone to hide? Are your motion detector lights working? Is your house number easy to see? While you're out there, look at your neighbors' houses as well. If you see something of concern, let them know.

Also, really think about where you have your grill and flammable liquids. An acquaintance of mine lost her home in the fire in Bethlehem in late April. The fire was started by a grill that was too close to a house and accelerated by flammable fluids that were near the grill.

Finally, as a dog owner/walker, I'd like to remind you that in the City of Allentown your dog must be on a leash, and you are required to pick up after them. You can be fined \$1,000 for not following this law whether you're walking your dog around our neighborhood or in one of the many beautiful parks.



YES!! I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events



SORRY. I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

The West Watch Neighborhood Group
& Send it to:
809 N 20th St.
Allentown, PA 18104

On Tuesday, July 14th, instead of having a meeting, the Auto Theft Unit will be doing VIN etching at the West End Youth Center. They are planning to start at 5:30 p.m. What is VIN etching? Using an acid, they etch your car's VIN number on every piece of glass in your car. The number is 1/8" tall, and it takes about 5 minutes to do. It makes your car less appealing to thieves. It is highly recommended for anyone owning a Honda or Acura - the two most commonly stolen cars - and for cars parked on the street overnight. If you would like your car etched, please send Pam an e-mail so she can add you to the list.

***Numbers To Know**

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Police-Fire-Ambulance 911

Police –Non-emergency 610-437-7751

Police—Vice Unit 610-437-7726

Weeds/Overgrown Grass Complaints 610-437-8729

Vacant Property Complaints 610-437-7694

Recycling/ Graffiti Removal 610-437-8729

Code Enforcement 610-437-7695

Quality of Life Complaints 610-437-7546

Health Bureau 610-437-7760

Zoning office 610-437-7630

What does a Block Captain Do?

We have started our Block Captain program and are looking for more people to join the program. We've been asked what a Block Captain does, and here is what we'd like everyone to start with: Introduce yourself to your neighbors starting on your street and branching out as far as you're comfortable. Talk to everyone in your area on a regular basis. Setup a communication chain to keep everyone informed of things going on in your area. Ask your neighbors to contact the police first and you second if something happens.

Help!

There are some areas in our neighborhood that are not receiving our newsletter due to a lack of volunteers. If this has happened to you, you could help us by delivering newsletters in your neighborhood or on a block near where you live. We definitely could use your help. Sign up today or find out more information by calling Pam at 610-437-4570 or email PamP@thewestwatch.org

CHEC-Mate Program

Report all suspicious activity anonymously by becoming a CHEC-mate (Citizens Helping Eliminate Crime) Member. Come to our monthly meeting and ask for a card and/or get a few for your Allentown friends or neighbors. Please don't sit silent and expect others to call the police. Everyone has to take responsibility to report suspicious activity when they see it. We can only begin to clean up Allentown when good people come together and say we will no longer put up with illegal activity.